

Application No. 10/606,562

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application.

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 17-21, 24, 26, 27 and 30 stand rejected.

Claims 5-7, 11-16, 22, 23, 25, 28 and 29 are objected to.

Statement of Common Ownership

The subject matter of the present application and the subject matter of U.S. Patent No. 6,550,891 were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Xerox Corporation.

Claim Objections

Claims 24 and 28-30 are objected to because the recitation of "the cleaning roller" and "the roller" form a minor lack of antecedent basis problem. Applicants have amended the claims and the antecedent basis problem should be eliminated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 8-10, 17-21, 24, 26, 27 and 30 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Berg (U.S. Patent No. 6,550,891 B1). These rejections are respectfully traversed. As noted above under the statement of common ownership, the subject matter of the '891 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time the invention of the present application was made. According to 35 USC § 103(c), for applications filed after November 29, 1999 subject matter that was commonly owned at the time an invention was made is disqualified from being prior art. Therefore this rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1-4, 8-10, 17-21, 24, 26, 27, and 30 should be allowed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

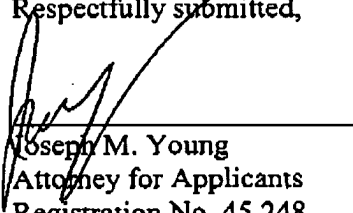
Claims 5-7, 11-16, 22, 23, 25, 28 and 29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In view of Applicants' response to the rejected claims, Applicants have declined to amend these claims at this time.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Young
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 45,248
Telephone (585) 423-4554

JMY/gmm